GUIDELINES FOR THE SAMPLING OF CERTAIN WOOL & HAIR IMPORTATIONS

3/98

Reference: Part 151, Subpart E, Customs Regulations Sections 151.61 - 151.76, Manual Supplement No. 3256-03 dated June 19,1981 and Manual Transmittal No. 3200-62 dated July 30,1981

1. PURPOSE

To update procedures for the processing of entries involving wool importations subject to duty at a rate per clean kilogram, including instructions for proper sampling dutiable wool and hair importations.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 151.68 of the Customs Regulations provides for the sampling of most wool or hair subject to duty at a rate per clean kilogram, unless not feasible. Customs officers either physically supervise wool sampling as provided by section 151.67 of the Customs Regulations or obtain a representative general sample as provided by section 151.70.

Manual Supplement 3256-03 dated June 1981, provided instructions for sampling dutiable wool importations. However, there is a need to update these instructions since U.S. Customs is no longer a source for wool sampling tools or containers.

3. ACTION

(A) A minimum of one out of ten entries of dutiable wool will be sampled for laboratory analysis. All other entries may be assessed duty and liquidated based on the entered estimated clean yield content, provided the port director is satisfied that the revenue is properly protected.

(B) All wool samples required under (A), or otherwise, shall be taken by the importer or his representative. A certification shall be made to the port director as follows:

(1) Samples taken are representative of the instant importation.

(2) Samples have been taken in accordance with the procedures and sampling schedules for that type of wool which were in effect on the date of importation.

(3) Samples have been sent to the appropriate Customs field laboratory along with all necessary documentation.

(C) Customs officers will no longer supervise or draw samples of wool imports unless deemed feasible by the Port director.

(D) The port director may direct that any importation of dutiable wool be sampled for whatever purposes deemed necessary, and occasionally authorize unannounced spot checks by Customs officers to protect the revenue.

4. SUPERSEDED MATERIAL

Manual Supplement Number 3256-03 dated June 19, 1981 and Manual Transmittal Number 3200-62 July 30,1981

Attachment

U.S. CUSTOMS PROCEDURE FOR THE SAMPLING OF WOOL AND FINE ANIMAL HAIR (Revised 1998)

I. Introduction

Chapter 51, Additional U.S. Note 2(b), Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States, provides rates of duty on imported wool or hair on the basis of clean content. This method of sampling is intended to provide a representative Customs sample, the clean content of which is to be determined by laboratory test. It involves the use of special equipment and sample containers and is applicable to most types of dutiable wool or hair.

II. Definitions

(A) Sampling Unit -- A sampling unit consists of all the undamaged packages covered by an entry or withdrawal which are shown on the entry or withdrawal to conform to all the following requirements:

(1) All shall be the same type of package (bale or bag) of approximately the same size and weight.

(2) All shall contain wool or hair of the same kind (sheep, goat, camel, alpaca, etc.); of the same general character (in fleeces, matchings, crutchings, etc.); in the same general condition (in the grease, scoured, washed, pulled, etc.); and of the same country of origin.

(3) All shall contain wool or hair subject to the same rate of duty.

For clean content sampling purposes, differences in grade, estimated clean content, type number, or mark among the packages or sub-lots in an entry do not control the establishment of sampling units, except as set forth above. However, packages that are found to be materially damaged by contact with sea water or other agents shall not be included in the sampling unit, but shall be examined separately in accordance with instructions from the appropriate Port Director and the appropriate U.S. Customs Laboratory Director.

(B) Core -- A core is the portion of wool or hair obtained by use of a sampling tool as described below.

(C) General Sample -- A general sample is the composite of the individual cores drawn from a sampling unit.

(D) Duplicate Sample -- A duplicate sample is an additional and separate general sample drawn at the same time and from the same sampling unit as the original general sample.

(E) Second Sample -- A second sample is a general sample drawn subsequently to the original sampling and weighing. A reweighing is always required at the time a second sample is drawn.

III. Equipment

(A) Sampling Tool -- A sampling tool consists of a tube with a cutting edge, together with a drill, hammer, press, or similar device, and accessories. The tube must be capable of penetrating the required distance into a package of wool and cutting a core therefrom. Sampling tubes in common use range from 1/2 to 2 inches(13 to 50 mm) in diameter, and from 10 to 40 inches(250 to 1000 mm) in length.

(B) Sample Containers -- A container with closure of such material and so constructed that a sample stored therein will not show a material change in its moisture content during the interval between sampling and weighing the sample for tests.

IV. Selection of Packages to be Sampled

For each sampling unit the number of packages to be bored and the number of cores to be taken from each sampled package shall be specified by the Port Director or other authorized officer, who shall be guided by the appended Wool Sampling Schedule. If the packages constituting a sampling unit have not been segregated into groups, the specified number of package shall be selected at random. If the packages have been segregated into groups, the specified number of packages shall be selected so that each group is represented proportionately.

For example, if a sampling unit of 200 bales of Australian wool has been segregated on the pier, in the warehouse or in shipping containers, into three groups of 36, 106, and 58 bales, and the sampling instructions call for one core from each of 54 bales, then 10, 29, and 15 bales shall be selected at random from the respective groups and bored. When proportionate sampling is used, the sampling officer shall note on the laboratory copy of the entry form the number of bales contained in each group and the respective numbers of bales that were sampled.

If a substantial number of the packages in a sampling unit are not available for sampling because of short-shipment or other reason, only that fraction of the specified number of packages shall be sampled that corresponds to the fraction of the packages available. The remainder of the sample shall be taken from the missing bales when they become available. If considerable delay is anticipated before the remainder of the bales becomes available, each portion of the importation shall be treated as a separate sampling unit and the appropriate number of bales in each such unit shall be sampled in accordance with the appended Wool Sampling Schedule. The identity of the packages comprising each such portion shall be clearly indicated on the laboratory copy of the entry.

V. Location and Depth of Borings

The direction and location of boring are very important. Boring shall always be done against the layers of wool in a bale, in the direction of compression, through the head or bottom of the bale. South American or Australian Jumbo type bales, weighing about 454 kilograms, shall be bored through either narrow compression side which corresponds to the head or bottom of the bale. Canadian type bags may be bored at any location on the bag and in any direction.

The location on the proper side at which a boring is to be made shall be selected at random. The cores constituting a general sample must not all be taken from the same approximate location on the various packages in the

sampling unit; all possible positions on the proper sides of the packages shall be equally represented. If more than one core is to be taken from a package, they shall be taken from widely separated locations in the package, and from both compression surfaces.

The depth of boring depends on the density and hardness of the package.

Soft packages such as Canadian bags shall be bored to the full length of the tube; moderately dense and dense bales shall be bored to the approximate mid-point of the bale.

All the cores from a given sampling unit shall be as nearly as possible of the same length.

VI. Time of Sampling

Since the percentage clean content of a general sample is related to the actual weight of the sampling unit at the time the sample is drawn, sampling shall be done at or about the same time as weighing. Whenever a second general sample is drawn, there shall be a redetermination of the weight at that time.

VII. Sampling Procedure

At the location selected for boring, cut the burlap or plastic covering in the shape of an L and fold the flap under. The opening should be large enough to admit the sampling tube freely without causing contamination of the core or of the wool in the bale with burlap fibers or plastic. Attach a tube to the drill, press firmly against the wool through the opening cut in the bale covering, and drill into the bale to the required depth. Immediately withdraw the tube, shutting off the drill when the tube is almost out of the bale. (When drilling into a bale or withdrawing a tube, push or pull straight, not upward or to a side, lest the tube or cutting edge be damaged.) Detach the tube from the drill. Place the slotted end over the container and insert the tip of the extruding rod into the cutting end, being careful not to press against and break or dull the cutting edge. Push the core out of the tube into the container, which should be kept covered at all times except when cores are being placed therein. Repeat this operation until the required number of packages has been bored, alternating boring tubes for greater efficiency and to avoid overheating of the tubes.

VIII. Labeling, Storage, and Shipment of Samples

After each container has been filled with a **minimum of 600 grams of sample**, it shall be promptly closed and the labeled with the following information to assure proper identification:

1. CONDITION (GREASY, SCOURED, CARBONIZED, COMBED, ETC.)
2. CUSTOMS ENTRY NUMBER
3. HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE NUMBER
4. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
5. SUPPLIER
6. IMPORTER
7. LOT NUMBER OR IDENTIFYING MARKS
8. LINE NUMBER IF MULTIPLE ITEMS
9. CLEAN YIELD CLAIM
10. GRADE

Wool or hair entered into all Ports shall be forwarded to the **Laboratory Director, U.S. Customs Laboratory, 607 Abercorn Street, Third Floor, Savannah, Georgia 31401.** The containers, along with the above information, shall be forwarded to the laboratory on the day the taking of the general sample is completed, or if this is not possible, on the next working day. If samples

must be stored temporarily, they shall be protected from heat and moisture and shall be kept sealed. The Customs Officer in charge shall be responsible for their
security.

Sections 151.62 and 151.63 of the Customs Regulations lists information required on invoices and entry summary.

IX. Care and Maintenance of Equipment

The utmost care shall be taken to prevent damage to equipment and loss of parts. Needed repairs and replacements shall be made promptly.

The serrated cutting edges used on the 2-inch diameter tubes are not normally resharpened. Each blade is capable of cutting about twenty cores. The smooth cutting edges on the 1/2-inch diameter tubes are long lasting when properly handled and can be resharpened. A sampling tip with a keen cutting edge can draw approximately 40 cores of greasy wool or 60 cores of scoured wool before becoming moderately dull. Information pertaining to the replacement or sharpening of cutting tips may be obtained from the Savannah Laboratory Director.

X. Limitation

Most, but not all, packages of imported wool or hair may be sampled with the equipment and by the method described above. The major exceptions are (a) very soft packages where the wool moves away from the advancing cutting edge without entering the tube, and (b) very hard bales where the density is so great that penetration is limited to one or two inches.

When an entry of either of these types of packages unsuitable for boring has been ordered sampled, the sampling officer shall communicate with the appropriate Port Director and the Savannah Laboratory Director for instructions.

APPENDIX

Wool Sampling Schedule

Origin and Type	No. of Packages in Sampling Unit	Cores To Be Taken
I. Scoured		
A. All Origins (not Burry)	2	Ten cores from each bale
	3	Seven cores from each bale
	4	Five cores from each bale
	5 to 6	Four cores from each bale
	7 to 9	Three cores from each bale
	10 to 19	Two cores from each bale
	Over 19	One core from each of 20 bales
B. All Origins (Burry)	2	Ten cores from each bale
	3	Seven cores from each bale
	4	Five cores from each bale
	5 to 6	Four cores from each bale
	7 to 9	Three cores from each bale
	10 to 29	Two cores from each bale
	30 to 500	One core from each of 30 bales
II. Other than Scoured		
A. Australia (Standard Bale)	2	Ten cores from each bale
New Zealand	3	Seven cores from each bale
South Africa	4	Five cores from each bale
	5 to 6	Four cores from each bale
	7 to 9	Three cores from each bale
	10 to 20	Two cores from each bale
	21 to 31	One core from each of 21 bales
	32 to 50	One core from each of 32 bales
	51 to 75	One core from each of 39 bales
	76 to 100	One core from each of 44 bales
	101 to 150	One core from each of 50 bales
	151 to 200	One core from each of 54 bales
	201 to 300	One core from each of 59 bales
	301 to 500	One core from each of 63 bales
	501 to 750	One core from each of 65 bales
	751 to 1000	One core from each of 67 bales
	Over 1000	One core from each of 75 bales
B. Canada	10 to 25	Four cores from each bale
	26 to 40	Four cores from each of 25bags
	41 to 50	Three cores from each of 30 bags
	51 to 85	Three cores from each of 35 bags
	86 to 300	Three cores from each of 40 bags
	Over 300	Three cores from each of 45 bags

C. Chile	2	Ten cores from each bale
	3	Seven cores from each bale
	4	Five cores from each bale
	5 to 6	Four cores from each bale
	7 to 9	Three cores from each bale
	10 to 21	Two cores from each bale
	22 to 36	Two cores from each of 22 bales
	37 to 50	Two cores from each of 36 bales
	51 to 75	Two cores from each of 46 bales
	76 to 100	Two cores from each of 53 bales
	101 to 150	Two cores from each of 64 bales
	151 to 200	Two cores from each of 71 bales
	201 to 300	Two cores from each of 79 bales
	301 to 500	Two cores from each of 87 bales
	501 to 750	Two cores from each of 92 bales
	751 to 1000	Two cores from each of 95 bales
D. Uruguay	2	Ten cores from each bale
Peru (Alpaca)	3	Seven cores from each bale
	4 to 5	Five cores from each bale
	6 to 7	Four cores from each bale
	8 to 9	Three cores from each bale
	10 to 20	Two cores from each bale
	21 to 30	Two cores from each of 20 bales
	31 to 50	Two cores from each of 23 bales
	51 to 100	Two cores from each of 24 bales
	101 to 200	Two cores from each of 25 bales
	Over 200	Two cores from each of 26 bales
E. Argentina	2	Ten cores from each bale
Australia	3	Seven cores from each bale
(Jumbo bale-	4	Five cores from each bale
@454 kilograms)	5 to 6	Four cores from each bale
Brazil	7 to 9	Three cores from each bale
Peru (Except	10 to 19	Two cores from each bale
Alpaca)	20 to 30	Two cores from each of 19 bales
	31 to 50	Two cores from each of 25 bales
	51 to 75	Two cores from each of 28 bales
	76 to 100	Two cores from each of 30 bales
	101 to 150	Two cores from each of 32 bales
	151 to 200	Two cores from each of 33 bales
	201 to 300	Two cores from each of 34 bales
	301 to 750	Two cores from each of 35 bales
	751 to 1000	Two cores from each of 36 bales

III. Pulled or Washed			
A. Australia			Use Schedule IA
France			Use Schedule IA
New Zealand	a) light lime		Use Schedule IA
	b) heavy lime		Use Schedule IIE
B. Other Origins			Use Schedule IIE
IV. Cashmere and Camel Hair			
(All origins - greasy)			Use Schedule IIE